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Attorney Docket No.: GRAT 19511

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Inventor : **Thomas HÜRLAND, et al.**  
Serial No. : **Concurrently Herewith**  
Filed : **Concurrently Herewith**  
Title : **Balloon for Preparing for and Easing Human Birth**

March 20, 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

S I R:

In order to comply with discretionary rules 37 CFR §§1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and copies of the documents listed thereon. These documents contain information which the Examiner may consider to be important in deciding whether to issue a patent in the instant application.

Also attached is a copy of the International Search Report. All of the documents listed in Form PTO-1449 appear in the International Search Report.

As this Statement is being filed prior to issuance of a first Office Action, no fee is due.

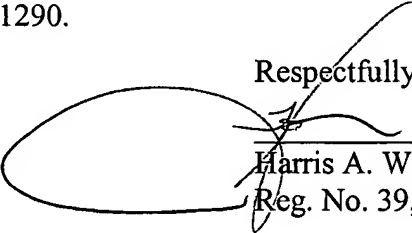
The present Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.56 as an Examiner might consider any cited document important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent, but the citation of each document is not to be construed as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete

search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR §§1.104 (a) and 1.106 (b), and in the course of such search will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,



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1449/PTO  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE          STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> Sheet 1 of 1	U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office	Application No. : <b>concurrently herewith</b> Filing Date : <b>concurrently herewith</b> First Named Inventor : <b>Thomas HURLAND, et al.</b> Group Art Unit : Examiner Name : Attorney Docket No. : <b>GRAT 19511</b>
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document	Kind Code if known <sup>2</sup>	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		US 4 338 943		OKAMOTO ET AL.	07/13/1982	
		US 4 018 230		OCHIAI ET AL.	04/19/1977	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document Office <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)	Country	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY
		EP 0663197		EP	HAMMERSEN ECKEHARD DR	07/19/1995
		DE 197 15 724		DE	HORKEL	10/29/1998
		CH 346 971		CH	SOKOL	06/15/1960
		WO 81/01098		WO	A. VAN DER ZON	04/30/1981

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), data, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, country, where published, source.	Applicant check here if English language translation attached T

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw a line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup>Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup>See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that Issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.1<sup>6</sup> if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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